

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 301614Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1232

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11722

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH, UR, US, AS

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF SOVIET OFFICIAL ON

CAMBODIA

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL AND SOVIET MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD
KAPITSA, LATTER OFFERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
CAMBODIA.

2. KAPITSA BEGAN BY SAYING THAT SIHANOUK NOW HAS
NO INFLUENCE. HIS ALLEGED GOVERNMENT HAS VIRTUALLY
DISINTEGRATED AND THE KHMER ROUGE WON'T ALLOW
SIHANOUK TO SPEAK FOR THEM. THE KHMER ROUGE BELIEVES
IT COULD TAKE ANY CITY IN CAMBODIA IT WANTS BUT IS
RESTRAINED BY THE PROSPECT OF CASUALTIES WHICH WOULD
BE SUFFERED AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS.
THE KHMER ROUGE FEELS THAT, BY CONTINUING PRESENT
SITUATION, LON NOL GOVERNMENT WILL FALL INTO ITS HANDS.

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3. CONCERNING POSSIBLE OUTCOMES IN CAMBODIA, KAPITSA THOUGHT IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT A COALITION COULD BE WORKED OUT ALONG THE LINES OF LAOS OR THAT A PARTITION MIGHT RESULT ALONG THE LINES OF THE KOREAN MODEL. WHEN PLIMSOLL QUERIED IF PARTITION WAS REALLY FEASIBLE, KAPITSA SAID IT COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. A THIRD VARIANT FOR A SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA WOULD BE COMPLETE TAKEOVER BY THE KHMER ROUGE. HOWEVER, THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW FAR THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO GO TO PROTECT LON NOL. KAPITSA ADDED THAT HANOI DOES NOT WANT A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD LEAVE CHINA IN TOO STRONG A POSITION. PLIMSOLL HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT KAPITSA FELT THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE IN THE EVENT OF A KHMER ROUGE TAKEOVER, BUT KAPITSA WAS NOT SPECIFIC.

4. KAPITSA CONCLUDED HIS DISCUSSION OF CAMBODIAN SITUATION BY SAYING THAT SOVIETS, WHILE INCLINED TO FAVOR KHMER ROUGE, ARE KEEPING THEIR LINES OPEN TO ALL PARTIES AND WILL WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW11722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740207-0091
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974076/aaaaaezu.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS OF SOVIET OFFICIAL ON CAMBODIA
TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH, UR, US, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005